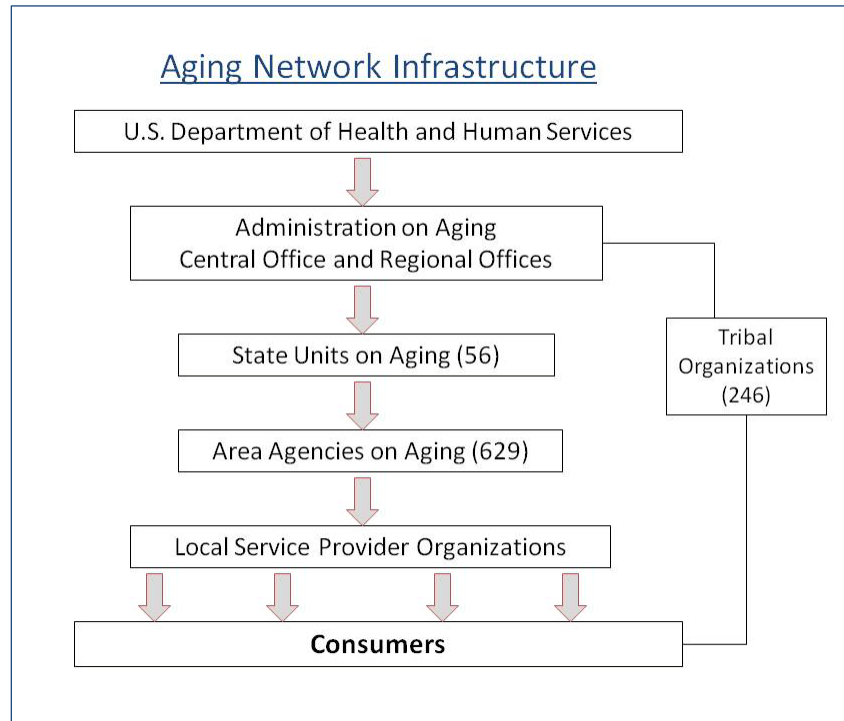


WHAT IS THE NATIONAL AGING NETWORK?

The National Aging Network (the Aging Network) was created in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and is one of the Nation's largest provider networks of home and community based care for older persons and their caregivers. The Administration on Aging (AoA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is a lead partner of the Aging Network which consists of 56 State Units on Aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), 246 Tribal organizations, 20,000 service providers, and thousands of volunteers.

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE AGING NETWORK?

The OAA plays an important role in shaping our nation's health and long-term care system to help older adults learn about and access services for maintaining their health and well-being in the community. The OAA authorizes grants to States for community planning programs, as well as for research, demonstration, and training projects in the field of aging. AoA funds States for nutrition, supportive home and community based services, family caregiver and elder rights programs. This funding flows to the local, community based networks of AAAs, 244 Tribal and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations. Additionally, AoA awards competitive grants in a number of substantive areas for developing comprehensive and integrated systems for long-term services and supports (e.g. Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)) and evidence based disease prevention and health promotion services.



HOW DOES THE AGING NETWORK INTERFACE WITH OTHER NETWORKS?

The 2006 reauthorization of the OAA included a forward looking strategy that enhances our ability to modernize our nation's system of long-term care alongside our health care system, giving people greater choice, control, and independence as they age. This strategy builds on and integrates the best practices of other HHS initiatives including ADRCs, Community Living Program, Own Your Future Long-Term Care Awareness Campaign, Cash & Counseling Demonstration Program, Evidence-Based Disease Prevention and Care Transitions Programs, Veterans' Directed Home and Community-Based Services, and the Money Follows the Person Programs.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Through the OAA, the Aging Network serves over 10.5 million adults over the age of 60, three million of whom rely on intensive supportive services provided by AAAs and local service providers. In 2009 the Aging Network provided approximately 149 million home delivered meals, 29 million hours of personal care services, 28 million transportation rides and 8 million hours of adult day care services. Additionally, approximately 700,000 caregivers received information assistance and support, including 6.4 million hours of respite care.

WHAT ARE OUR PROGRAM AREAS?

AoA and the Aging Network have invested public and private funds for programs and improvements that maximize the independence, choice and control for older adults, individuals with disabilities and

their caregivers to receive support according to their personal preferences. These programs and focus areas include:

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) are a collaborative effort of AoA and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), designed to streamline access to long-term care. The ADRC program provides states with an opportunity to effectively integrate the full range of long-term supports and services into a single, coordinated system across programs and service providers. By simplifying access to long-term care systems, ADRCs and other single point of entry (SEP) systems are serving as the cornerstone for long-term care reform in many states and local communities.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/ADRC/index.aspx

The Community Living Program (CLP) encourages the Aging Network, through competitive grants, to modernize and transform the funding they receive under the OAA, or other non-Medicaid sources, into flexible, consumer directed service dollars. This grant opportunity complements the CMS [Money Follows the Person Initiative](#) by strengthening the capacity of states to reach older adults before they enter a nursing home and spend down to Medicaid.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/NHD/index.aspx

The Veterans Directed Home and Community-Based Services (VDHCBS) Program features a partnership between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and AoA, formed to enhance home based supports for veterans. VDHCBS programs offer eligible veterans of all ages a flexible budget to purchase Aging Network services that help them to live independently at home rather than in institutions.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/NHD/index.aspx

Supportive Services target both the home and the community. Services include assistance with transportation, in-home care, community based services such as adult day care, and information and referral assistance. The intent is to assist aging individuals in maintaining their independence in the community for as long as effectively possible.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/supportive_services/index.aspx

Nutrition Services gives older Americans the option of receiving balanced and nutritious meals at home or at a congregate setting such as a senior or adult day care center, church, or another community facility. Home delivered meals, commonly referred to as “Meals on Wheels,” are often pre-packaged and ready to eat. Meals for seniors who gather at communal sites are typically prepared on site.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Nutrition_Services/index.aspx

Health, Prevention, and Wellness Programs provide seniors with the tools to maintain their health, reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases, and manage their health to live as independently as possible. These collaborations between aging and public health networks implement evidence based prevention programs in communities around the country.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/index.aspx

Family Caregiver Programs help to ensure caregivers have the assistance and support to fulfill their obligations as best as possible with the least amount of adversity. The program offers individual and group counseling, and training for caregivers and respite care.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Caregiver/index.aspx